

CARMEN AGREE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER MARCH 5

All Fears of Strike During Inauguration Dispelled By Union Officials.

PROMISE ALL ASSISTANCE

Workers Indignant Over Reports of Walkout Within Forty-eight Hours.

Any apprehension that may have been felt over the probability of a street car strike in Washington during the inaugural period was dispelled today when the employees of the Washington Railway and Electric Company adopted the traction officials' suggestion to defer discussion of demands until after March 5.

In their reply to President King's letter to them yesterday, the officials of the carmen's union said:

"We assure you and the citizens of Washington, of which we are no small part, that we will do anything humanly possible to accommodate the public and work in harmony with our employers."

Conference Ends Trouble.

Possibility of any interruption to traffic on the lines of the Capital Traction Company during the inaugural period has been eliminated by the holding of conferences between President George E. Hamilton and a committee representing the employees of that company. The committee of employees is composed of J. H. Cookman, W. B. Pollard and W. J. Meyerhoff.

The Capital Traction Company officials have talked with the committee on several occasions and, it is understood, consented to discuss the new working agreement before March 11, when the old one expires.

Officials of the union were indignant today over the circulation of reports that the employees intended declaring a strike within the next forty-eight hours. President George A. Wilbur, Recording Secretary Cookman and Financial Secretary Garth Calderhead were vehement in their denunciation of the reports as unfounded and declared that the union was in honor bound to take no action whatsoever until after March 11.

To Live Up to Agreement.

The officials said they intended living up to the last letter and punctuating mark of the agreement which ended last year's strike.

The reply sent to the Washington Railway and Electric Company avows that the employees are loyal to the city, the nation and the President and that they will co-operate to the utmost with the company in making the inauguration a success.

Allusion is made in the reply to the presence in Washington of two score or more men known to be strike breakers. Touching on the presence of these men the reply says the officials of the union have "positive information that strike breakers and thugs are being imported into this city to intimidate and, if necessary, to take our bread and butter away from us."

Text of Reply.

The reply sent to President King by President Wilbur and Recording Secretary Cookman, follows:

"We are in receipt of your letter of February 27, addressed to Messrs. G. A. Wilbur, H. E. Jones, and F. M. Thompson, and the contents noted.

"In the first paragraph of your letter you state you consider the matter of making a contract with the Amalgamated Association. We seek a contract as employees of your company, members of the Amalgamated Association.

"In the second paragraph of your letter you state the existing agreement does not expire until March 11. We know this, and our object in presenting you with a new agreement was to give you ample time to consider the same and to sit down with a committee of your employees, members of the Amalgamated Association, and consider an agreement for the future.

Why They Want Time.

"And, further, you state in the second paragraph of your letter, 'Many questions will arise.' We know that many questions will arise, and that is why we were desirous of having plenty of time before the 11th of March, so that all matters could be considered and an agreement worked out by that date.

"And further, in paragraph 2 of your letter, you seek to leave the impression that your employees, members of the Amalgamated Association, are not desirous of making the stay of visitors to our city as pleasant as possible. We want to assure you, Mr. King, that we are as desirous as you are to make the inaugural of President Wilson a success.

"And we assure you and the citizens of Washington, of which we are no small part, that we will do anything humanly possible to accommodate the public and work in harmony with our employer.

Strike Breakers Imported.

"And this even in the face of positive information that strike breakers and thugs are being imported into this city to intimidate and, if necessary, to take our bread and butter away from us.

"Mr. King, we want to further assure you that when the proper time comes you or no one else can accuse your employees, members of the Amalgamated Association, of being anything but loyal to the President and to the nation.

"We would respectfully request that you set a date to meet with the committee of your employees, members of the Amalgamated Association, who have the matter of a new agreement in charge."

WASHINGTON MAN DESCRIBES SINKING OF LINER LACONIA

Muffled Blow and Lurch Only Warning, Says Floyd P. Gibbons In Graphic Story of Horrors of Disaster.

Through special arrangement with the Chicago Tribune, The Times is enabled to present today the thrilling story of Floyd P. Gibbons, Washington newspaperman, who was aboard the liner Laconia, sunk by a German submarine.

His vivid story, called to The Tribune, is not only the first detailed description of the Laconia disaster, but the first description by a trained writer of the destruction by torpedo of any great ship. As such it ranks among the foremost stories of the great war.

By FLOYD P. GIBBONS.
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QUEENSTOWN, Feb. 26 (via London, Feb. 27).—I have serious doubts whether this is a real story. I am not entirely certain that it is not all a dream and that in a few minutes I will wake up back in stateroom B 19 on the promenade deck of the Cunarder Laconia and hear my cockney steward informing me with an abundance of "and sirs" that it is a fine morning.

It is now a little over thirty hours since I stood on the slanting decks of the big liner, listened to the lowering of the lifeboats, heard the hiss of escaping steam and the roar of ascending rockets as they tore lurid rents in the black sky and cast their red glare over the roaring sea.

THIRTY MINUTES AFTER BEING SAVED.

I am writing this within thirty minutes after stepping on the dock here in Queenstown from the British mine sweeper which picked up our open lifeboat after an eventful six hours of drifting and darkness and bailing and pulling on the oars and of straining aching eyes toward that empty, meaningless horizon in search of help. But, dream or fact, here it is:

The Cunard liner Laconia, 18,000 tons burden, carrying seventy-three passengers—men, women and children—of whom six were American citizens—manned by a mixed crew of 216, bound from New York to Liverpool and loaded with foodstuffs, cotton and war material, was torpedoed without warning by a German submarine last night off the Irish coast. The vessel sank in about forty minutes.

Two Americans Dead.

Two American citizens, mother and daughter, listed from Chicago and former residents there, are among the dead. They were Mrs. Mary E. Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy. I have talked with a seaman who was in the same lifeboat with the two Chicago women. (Continued on Fourth Page.)

D. C. GUARDSMEN TO DETRAIN TOMORROW

Third Regiment Will March From Rosslyn to Fort Myer.

The District militiamen will arrive at Rosslyn, Va., tomorrow morning, according to announcement at the War Department this afternoon.

The members of the Third Regiment will march to Fort Myer, Va., where they will remain in barracks awaiting muster out, while the soldiers in Troop A will go to the First street armory, the old Business High School building.

The returning militiamen were expected to reach Washington this afternoon, but the quartermaster general at the War Department was advised that Col. G. B. Young, commanding the Third Regiment, had decided to give the soldiers a rest in Richmond, Va.

The three sections of the troop train will reach Potomac yards, between Washington and Alexandria, tonight, but none of the soldiers will be allowed to leave the cars. Colonel Young wants them to get a good night's rest, so as to freshen them against the fatigues of tomorrow, when they will have to unload the enormous quantity of impedimenta brought back from the border.

Another advantage of stopping the sections in Potomac yards is to at least the last one to catch up with the first, so the whole regiment may detrain at Rosslyn, south end of Aqueduct bridge, at the same time.

DRY BILL BEFORE HOUSE

Harrison of Mississippi Presents Special Rule for Its Consideration.

The Sheppard prohibition bill was called up in the House at 1:15 o'clock this afternoon by Congressman "Pat" Harrison of Mississippi, who presented a special rule ordering the immediate consideration of the measure.

Adoption of the rule and passage of the bill in unamended form is expected late today.

Pearing a filibuster on a bill relating to the retirement of Federal judges, the House voted down a motion to take up the judgeship bill, and this gave the prohibition measure the right of way.

FAVORS GUNS FOR LINERS.

If America will put her own runs and gunners aboard American liner ships and serve notice on the world that interference with them is at the transgressor's own peril, then this nation can hold up its head, declared President Franklin, of the American Line, in a letter today to Representative Bennett of New York.

SEAPLANE BOMBS TRANSPORT.

BERLIN (Via wireless), Feb. 28.—A German seaplane in the northern Aegean sea successfully bombed a hostile transport, the official press agency announced today. The machine returned safely in spite of violent shelling and pursuit by two hostile planes.

CLERKS' RAISE IS THREATENED BY HOKE SMITH

Georgia Senator Announces He Will Oppose All Appropriation Bills.

HAS SOME STRONG BACKING

Extra Session Looks More Probable Because of New Trouble.

Prospects for the prompt enactment of the legislative bill and the agricultural bill, containing increases in pay for Government employees on the House scale of increase, as well as for enactment of such an increase in other bills, were suddenly interfered with today.

Senator Hoke Smith announced his intention to do all possible to prevent enactment of the legislative and other appropriation bills because of the increased pay provisions forced into them by the House.

Strong Opposition.

Senator Smith said he would be backed by other Senators and it is well known there is strong Senate opposition to the House increase.

The effect of this opposition, if it is continued, will be to prevent passage of various important appropriation bills and force an extra session. It looks now as if the legislative, agricultural, District, and perhaps all appropriation bills will fail.

Will Be Jeopardized.

At least, they will be jeopardized. Under the circumstances, an extra session of Congress looks today more probable than ever.

The combined filibuster against the bill to grant authority to the President in the foreign crisis and against the appropriation bills is likely to tie up business in a complete knot the closing days of this week.

O. L. HOUSEL GETS POST

Is Appointed Assistant Electrical Engineer for District.

As the result of a competitive examination, in which twenty-two applicants were entered, O. L. House, inspector in the electrical department of the District, was appointed today assistant electrical engineer, to succeed Warren B. Hadley, promoted to electrical engineer.

Mr. House will enter upon his new duties tomorrow. He is a graduate of the school of electrical engineering of the University of Illinois, and entered the service of the District September 8, 1913.

The position pays \$2,000 a year.

Many congratulations were received by Mr. House today from his friends and associates in the District building.

HARVARD MAN A "MAID"

Earns \$15 by Housework—618 Students Make \$85,120 in Year.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Feb. 28.—One Harvard undergraduate elected to do general housework during the last academic year, according to the annual report of the student employment office.

The sum of \$15 which the young man received for his services leads to the belief that he either substituted for a regular maid or lost his job after a month of bailing and bed-making.

Student employment during the last year gave 618 Harvard men total wages of \$85,120.76. Included in the occupations followed were those of furnace man, dancing teacher, dancing partner, pin boy, model, errand boy, scene shifter and conductor.

NURSE BLAMED BY WIFE

Husband Says "Suffragettes, Movies, and Gossip" Broke Up Home.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—Mrs. Viola E. Hill, who is suing George W. Hill for a divorce, alleges that the cause of their marital differences is a nurse employed by her husband in a sanatorium which he conducts.

Hill, vigorously denying the charge of his wife, asserts that the three contributing causes to the family troubles were "suffragettes, idle gossip, and the movies."

The Times' Local News

Despite the increased cost of paper, The Times is constantly increasing its news service and space. In local news especially has it added to both quantity and quality until it is printing more local news than any paper in the city. The record for the six week days of last week was:

	Cols. of Local News	No. of Items
THE TIMES	133	784
Next paper	95	495
Next paper	65	341
Next paper	64	514

All the News in The Times

FILIBUSTER MAY PREVENT PASSAGE OF ARMED SHIP BILL IN PRESENT SESSION

GERARD SAILS TODAY

Former Ambassador Gerard sails today from Corunna, Spain, for America, according to a dispatch from him that reached the State Department.

He denies that he gave out any interviews to correspondents while in Europe despite the fact that he was quoted at great length in the newspapers.

WAR ADVICES SENT PENFIELD

Ambassador Elkus Also Instructed on What to Do If Hostilities Come.

Instructions have been sent to Ambassador Penfield, at Vienna, as to the course he shall follow in the event that the American Government decides to sever diplomatic relations with Austria.

Similar instructions are understood to have been sent to Ambassador Elkus, at Constantinople.

The American Government is awaiting definite word from both Austria and Turkey as to where they propose to stand with reference to the German submarine decree.

No Definite Advice.

With the exception of a dispatch received today from Austria, denying that an Austrian submarine was responsible for the sinking of the American sailing vessel Lyman M. Law, the United States, has had no definite advice on the subject since the receipt of the Austrian denial, subscribing to the German decree.

Dispatches to Ambassador Elkus on the subject of Turkey's attitude, have been so mixed up in transmission as to prove practically valueless.

Asked For New Report.

He is understood to have been instructed to send new reports both on this matter and the question of getting safe conduct for the cruiser Des Moines and the collier Caesar, which are awaiting opportunity to proceed to Beirut, from Alexandria, Egypt, to deliver food supplies to the starving Syrians and Americans and to take on board the American missionaries held up in Asia Minor.

Three factors of extreme seriousness stood out in bold relief in the German situation today, while Congress was jockeying about on the question of giving the President the power he wants to defend American shipping.

Factors Looming Up.

The undisputed evidence that Germany, in the sinking of the Cunard liner Laconia, had committed the "overt act" which President Wilson solemnly warned her against.

The bitterly anti-American speech of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, in the German Reichstag, regarded in many quarters here, as almost preliminary to a declaration of war against the United States.

The continued refusal of Germany to release the American prisoners captured on the Yarrowdale.

Call It Unjustified.

Officials in the State Department regarded the speech of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg as entirely unjustified as regards many statements of fact which he purported to make.

That he should have expressed surprise over the action of the American Government in severing diplomatic relations with Germany, was regarded as absurd.

In this connection a high official of the department called attention to the disclosures of the attempt made by German agents to destroy the German liners in United States ports on the day that the German submarine decree was announced, as proving conclusively that Germany realized that a severance of relations was the inevitable result of her resumption of ruthless submarine warfare.

As a matter of fact this official said the American Government knew months ahead of time that Germany was preparing to annihilate the pledges in the Sussex case.

END OF GRAND JURIES SEEN

English Recorder Predicts Such Bodies Will Be Abolished.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—In charging a grand jury at the Old Bailey, the recorder announced that this might be the last grand jury to sit in England. He predicted that the legislation before Parliament to abolish such bodies was being pushed through, and that meanwhile, it had been decided to anticipate that action by discontinuing grand juries during the war.

FRIENDLY WITH JAPANESE.

Establishment of "fraternal relations between the American Federation of Labor and the Japanese Laborers' Society of Japan, the national labor organization there, was announced today from Federation headquarters here.

SENATORS PLAN FINISH FIGHT

La Follette and Hoke Smith Risk Supply Bills in Opposition.

FOES ALL DETERMINED

As Hours of Session Grow Less Friends of Administration Grow Anxious.

All indications this afternoon favor a bitter and uncertain fight over the bill which the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has reported, which would authorize the President to arm merchant ships and also to use such other methods for the protection of American vessels and American lives and property as he might consider justifiable.

The measure did not come up in the Senate today, owing to the fact that the revenue bill was immediately taken up when the Senate met at 10 o'clock, and will be under consideration probably through the entire day.

Revenue Vote This Evening.

The revenue bill, by agreement, will be voted upon at 8 o'clock this evening, and up to that hour it cannot be displaced except by a majority vote of the Senate, or by unanimous consent, and no such action is likely.

Moreover, when Senator La Follette last night prevented a second reading of the bill to grant authority to the President, he made it impossible for it to come up until tomorrow, if any one should object to its second reading.

Pending the disposition of the revenue bill, the friends and opponents of the bill to give the President authority in the foreign crisis organized for the struggle which they see is coming. It is expected that the last three days of this week will largely be taken up by debate on that bill. In fact, the possibility exists that the opponents of the bill will conduct so strong a filibuster against it from tomorrow until noon of March 4 as to prevent it from coming to a vote.

Steering Committee Meets.

Senator La Follette is preparing to filibuster against the bill, and he will have the backing of a number of Republicans and some Democrats who object to giving the President broad powers in the existing controversy.

Just how many Senators will line up can not be accurately predicted.

The possibility exists that in the end a compromise will be forced and some measure put through along the line of the one reported by the House Foreign Affairs Committee today, which would authorize the President to arm ships, but would not grant him power to use other undefined methods for the protection of American rights.

The Democratic Steering Committee of the Senate held a long meeting today in an effort to bring some order out of the chaotic conditions which now obtain. Many of the Democratic leaders want to force a continuous session from this time on.

Greatly complicating things, is the situation in regard to the appropriation bills. Practically none of the most important appropriation legislation has yet been finally disposed of.

Hoke Smith Plans Fight.

It is uncertain whether any of the important appropriation measures can be forced through. Senator La Follette's filibuster against the navy bill adds to the uncertainty of the outlook. The fight which Senator Hoke Smith declared today he would make against the legislative bill and other bills providing for increase in pay of Government employees, is another factor which will contribute to delay the enactment of the appropriation measure.

Despite the fact that advice from the White House are that the President will not call an extra session, if it possibly can be avoided, the belief grew, even among Democratic Senators, today that it will be almost impossible to avoid one, because so many appropriation bills will be hurled up as to make it necessary that one be called.

STAFFORD VICE SCHULTZ

Son of District Supreme Court Justice Gets Official Berth.

Edward Stafford, son of Justice Wendell Phillips Stafford, of the District Supreme Court, was appointed by the Commissioners today assistant corporation counsel to succeed Gus A. Schultz, resigned. The appointment becomes effective tomorrow.

Mr. Stafford is a graduate of Dartmouth College, and was graduated from the Law School of George Washington University in 1914. He is twenty-seven years old.

In his letter of resignation to the Commissioners Mr. Schultz said that it was his intention to enter private practice. Mr. Schultz has been connected with the District service nineteen years, and recently has been assigned to the juvenile court.